

Labor Trouble Idles 100,000 Across Nation

**Strikes Slow Production
Of Steel; Vital Defense
Industries Are Affected**

By The Associated Press

A nation-wide strike of 35,000 CIO rubber workers was started today and the number of workers made idle by labor disputes throughout the country soared above 100,000.

The walkout by CIO union workers in 19 U. S. Rubber Company plants was the second strike this week involving a vital war material. The first brought an immediate reduction in steel production. A strike in its third week in Ohio has halted production of jet engines used in war planes.

NEARLY 50,000 workers have been made idle in steel and steel-related industries owned by U. S. Steel Corp. in Pennsylvania. The unemployment resulted from a strike started Monday by 1,500 Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen on a connecting line serving the company's district plants near Pittsburgh.

The CIO union employees of the U. S. Rubber Company plants started walking off their jobs after the midnight deadline in contract negotiations. Pickets appeared at the plants.

A COMPANY spokesman said no wage issue is involved in the dispute. He said issues included hospitalization, pension plan revision and the length of the new contract. Negotiators planned to meet again today. The union involved is the CIO United Rubber, Cork, Linoleum and Plastic Workers of America.

The company has three plants in Naugatuck, Conn., employing 6,000; Mishawaka, Ind., 4,500; Detroit, 4,000; Providence, R. I., 3,200; Chipewee Falls, Mass., 3,000; Los Angeles, 3,000; Passaic, N. J., 3,100; Indianapolis, 2,500; Fort Wayne, Ind., 1,800; and Bristol, R. I., 1,500. Other plants are in Chicago, Philadelphia, Eau Claire, Wis.; Milan, Tenn.; North Bergen, N. J.; Washington, Ind., and Woonsocket, R. I.

ANOTHER NEW strike which started today involved 3,500 CIO utility workers against the Southern California Gas Co.

Wages, a union shop and other demands are involved in the dispute over a new contract. The average wage of the workers is \$1.86 an hour.

The company serves approximately 1,300,000 customers in 159 Southern California communities with a population of more than 4½ million. A company spokesman said supervisory employees expect to maintain the flow of gas to homes.

IN PITTSBURGH, U. S. Steel officials estimated the BRT strike is costing 25,000 tons of steel daily. The rail workers quit their jobs Monday night, protesting 10-day suspensions of two conductors. The railroad, wholly-owned subsidiary of U. S. Steel, claims the men had led a slowdown. Big Steel banked its furnaces and closed four steel-making plants, making idle mill, coal and railroad workers.

The strike of 4,500 United Auto Workers and 1,100 AFL Machinists at the General Electric Company plant in Evendale, O., was in its 20th day. The walkout has stopped production of jet engines used in war planes.

There was a rash of strikes in other Ohio cities, affecting buses in Akron and building trades and produce commission house workers in Columbus and Cincinnati.

In New Jersey, a strike of some 7,000 telephone workers entered its second week with major issues deadlocked.

Operations at the Kankakee unit of Joliet Arsenal, operated by the U. S. Rubber Co., will not be affected by the strike, it was reported by local officials of the firm. The company operations here are not dependent on any supplies from the other plants affected by the strike, it was added.